THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1.   A method of creating a conveniently accessible medical history
for a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

          1) establishing an information-transmission connection with
a remote information-input node;

          2) receiving medical information through said information-
transmission connection from said information-input node;

          3) configuring said information into a medical history record;
and

          4) transmitting said medical history record to a remote record
output node which record output node is configured to receive said medical
history record;

          whereby a conveniently accessible medical history can be
created at one location and accessed via a remote record output node.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step 3 comprises the step
of configuring said information into a medical history record, which medical
history record is storable on a portable readable storage medium, and said
step 4 comprises the step of transmitting said medical history record to a
remote record output node which record output node is configured to store
said medical history record on said portable readable storage medium;
whereby a conveniently accessible medical history can be created at one
location and accessed via a remote record output by virtue of said medical
history record being saved on said portable readable storage medium via
said record output node.

3.   The method of claims 1 or 2, further comprising the step of
decrypting medical information received through said information-
transmission connection.

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4.   The method of claims 1 or 2, further comprising the step of encrypting said medical history record prior to transmitting said medical history record to said record output node.

5   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein said encrypting step comprises · encrypting by PKI encryption.

6.   The method of claim 2, wherein said transmitting step comprises transmitting said medical history record to a remote record output

10   node, which record output node is configured to store the medical history record on the portable readable storage medium and to allow a medical practitioner to inspect the medical history record prior to storage of the medical history record.

15   7.   The method of claims 1 or 2, the establishing step comprising establishing an information-transmission connection with a remote information-input node, which information-input node includes a computer.

8.   The method of claims 1 or 2, the establishing step comprising

20   establishing an information-transmission connection with a remote information-input node, which information-input node includes a fax machine, said information-transmission connection including a connection with said fax machine.

25   9.   The method of claims 1 or 2, the configuring step further comprising configuring the information into a medical history record which is readable and displayable by an internet browser.

10.   The method of claims 1 or 2, the configuring step further

30   comprising configuring the information into a medical history record which is represented in HTML.

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11.   The method of claims 1 or 2, the configuring step further comprising configuring the information into a medical history record which is represented in XML.

5   12.   The method of claims 1 or 2, the establishing step comprising establishing an information-transmission connection with an information-input node, which information-input node includes a storage computer storing medical information.

10   13.   The method of claims 1 or 2, the establishing step comprising establishing an information-transmission connection with a remote information-input node, which information-input node includes a scanner for scanning images and translating the images to a computer-storable format.

15   14.   The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein said configuring step further includes including in said medical history record medical condition information relating to a medical condition of said patient.

15.   The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein said configuring step
20   further includes including in the medical history record medical condition information relating to a medical condition of the patient, the medical condition information including information on symptoms and treatment of the medical condition.

25   16.   The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said establishing step comprises establishing an information transmission connection via the internet, and the transmitting step comprises the step of transmitting via the internet.

30   17.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step 4 comprises the step of transmitting said medical history record to a remote record output node which record output node is configured to receive said medical history record

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and cause at least a part of said medical history record to be printed on a printer.

18.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step 4 comprises the step of transmitting said medical history record to a remote record output node which record output node is configured to receive said medical history record and cause at least a part of said medical history record to be accessible via a wireless communication device.

19.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a set of permitted record accessors.

20.   The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of encrypting said medical history record under the PKI public keys of at least one of said permitted record accessors.

21.   The method of claims 19 or 20, further comprising the step of receiving a specification of at least one portion of said medical history record that is accessible to each permitted record accessor.

22.   The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of encrypting the at least one portion of the medical history record accessible to each permitted record accessor using the public key of that permitted record accessor.

23.   A method of creating a conveniently accessible medical history for a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

1) establishing an information-transmission connection with a remote record-creating node;

2) transmitting medical information through said information-transmission connection to said record-creating node, said record-creating node being adapted to configure said information into a medical history

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record and to transmit said medical history record to a remote record output node.

24.   The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of receiving said medical history record from said record-creating node at said record output node.

25.   The method of claim 24, wherein said step 2 comprises the step of transmitting to said record creating node, said record creating node being adapted to configure said information into a medical history record that is storable on a portable readable storage medium, the method further comprising the step of storing said medical history record on said portable readable storage medium.

26.   The method of claims 23, 24 or 25, further comprising the step of encrypting said medical information prior to transmitting said information to said record-creating node.

27.   The method of claim 26, wherein said encrypting step comprises encrypting by PKI encryption.

28.   The method of claim 24 or 25, said method further comprising the step of decrypting said medical history record received from said record creating node.

29.   The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of inspecting said medical history record prior to the storing step.

30.   The method of claim 25 the storing step comprising storing the medical history record on a compact disk.

31.   The method of claim 25, the storing step comprising storing the medical history record on a compact disk which is approximately the size of a conventional credit card.

5   32.   The method of claims 23, 24 or 25, the establishing step comprising establishing an information-transmission connection which includes an internet connection.

33.   The method of claims 23, 24 or 25, wherein the step of 10   transmitting said information comprises transmitting said information by fax.

34.   The method of claims 23, 24 or 25, further comprising, prior to said transmitting step, the step of scanning medical information images with a scanner for translating images into a computer storable form.

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35.   The method of claims 24 or 25, said receiving step comprising receiving a medical history record, represented in HTML from the record-creating node.

20   36.   The method of claims 24 or 25, the receiving step comprising receiving a medical history record, represented in XML, from the record-creating node.

37.   The method of claim 24 or 25, the receiving step comprising 25   receiving a medical history record, readable and displayable by an internet browser, from the record-creating node.

38.   The method of claims 23, 24 or 25, said method further comprising, prior to said transmitting step, the step of translating the medical 30   history information into a format compatible with the record-creating node.

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39.   The method of claims 23, 24 or 25, the transmitting step comprising transmitting medical information through the information-transmission connection to the record-creating node, which record-creating node is associated with an application service provider.

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40.   The method of claims 23 or 24, the method further comprising the step of selecting a set of permitted record accessors.

41.   The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of
10   transmitting to said record creating node said set of permitted record accessors.

42.   The method of claims 40 or 41, further comprising the step of specifying at least one portion of said medical history record that is
15   accessible to each permitted record accessor.

43.   The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of transmitting to said record creating node a specification of the at least one portion of said medical history record that is accessible to each permitted
20   record accessor.

44.   A system for creating a conveniently accessible medical history for a patient, said system comprising:
                 an information-input node for receiving medical information
25   and transmitting said information through an information-transmission connection; .
                 a record-creating node, remote from said information-input node, for receiving said information through said information-transmission connection, for configuring said information into a medical history record,
30   and for transmitting said medical history record;

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a record output node, remote from said record-creating node, for receiving said medical history record from said record-creating node and for permitting access to said medical history record.

5   45.   The system of claim of claim 44, the record output node being configured to store said medical history record on a portable readable storage medium.

46.   The system of claims 44 or 45, said information-input node
10   including means for encrypting said information transmitted through said information-transmission connection.

47.   The system of claims 44, 45 or 46, said record creating node including means for encrypting said medical history record transmitted from
15   said record-creating node to said record output node.

48.   The system of claim 47, said record output node including means for decrypting said medical history record.

20   49.   The system of claim 45, said record output node being configured to permit inspection of said medical history record by a medical practitioner prior to said medical history record being stored on said portable readable storage medium.

25   50.   The system of claim 45, wherein said portable readable storage medium is a compact disk.

51.   The system of claims 45 or 50, wherein said portable readable storage medium is approximately the size of a conventional credit card.
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52.   The system of claim 44, said information-input node comprising a computer.

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53.   The system of claim 52, said information input node further comprising a fax machine, said information-transmission connection further comprising a connection between said fax machine and said record-creating node.

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54.   The system of claims 44 or 45, said medical history record being configured so as to be readable and displayable by a conventional internet browser.

10   55.   The system of claims 44 or 45, said medical history record being represented in HTML.

56.   The system of claims 44 or 45, said medical history record being represented in XML.

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57.   The system of claim 44 or 45, said record creating node being associated with an application service provider.

58.   A method of creating a conveniently accessible medical history
20   for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:
        1) establishing an information transmission connection with a remote information input node;
        2) receiving medical information through said information transmission connection from said information input node;
25   3) configuring said information into a medical history record; and
        4) saving, on a portable readable storage medium, a record access certificate for granting remote access to said medical history record; whereby the patient's record may be accessed using the certificate stored on the storage medium.

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59.   The method of claim 58, further comprising the step of saving said medical history record on said portable readable storage medium. ,

60.   The method of claim 59, further comprising prior to the step of saving said medical history record, the step of transmitting said medical history record to a remote record output node.

61.   The method of claim 58, further comprising, prior to the step of saving the record access certificate, the step of transmitting the record access certificate to the remote record output node.

62.   The method of claim 58, said step 4 comprising the step of saving, on said portable readable storage medium, a PKI certificate of said patient, for granting access to said medical history record.

63.   The method of claim 58, wherein said configuring step further includes including in said medical history record medical condition information relating to a medical condition of the patient, the medical condition information including information on symptoms and treatment of the medical condition.

64.   A method of accessing the medical history record of a patient, the method comprising:

          1) reading a record access certificate from a portable readable storage medium;

          2) attempting to establish a connection with a remote node holding a primary medical history record;

          3) if said connection is established, accessing said medical history record in said remote node, using said record access certificate; and

          4) if said connection is not established, reading a backup medical history record from said portable readable storage medium.